

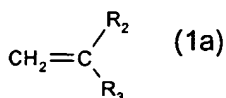
CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

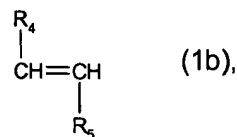
1. (currently amended) A crosslinkable or polymerizable prepolymer that is obtained by
 - (a) copolymerizing at least one hydrophilic monomer having one ethylenically unsaturated double bond and at least one crosslinker comprising two or more ethylenically unsaturated double bonds in the presence of a chain transfer agent, which in addition to the chain transfer group contains a functionality reactive with the organic compound of step (b) having a functional group; and
 - (b) ~~reacting one or more functional groups of the chain transfer agent comprised in the resulting copolymer with an organic compound having an ethylenically unsaturated group and a group which reacts with said functionality introduced by the chain transfer agent in step (a);~~

wherein the crosslinker according to step (a) is a polysiloxane, perfluoroalkyl polyether or polysiloxane/perfluoroalkyl polyether block copolymer comprising in each case two or more ethylenically unsaturated double bonds;

wherein the hydrophilic monomer is a monomer which, when polymerized, gives ~~as a homopolymer, a polymer~~ which is water-soluble or can absorb at least 10% by weight of water.
2. (currently amended) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer according to step (a) is a radical of formula



or



wherein R₂ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R₄ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, phenyl or a radical -C(O)OY₉, wherein Y₉ is hydrogen or unsubstituted or hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₄-alkyl;

R₅ is a radical -C(O)Y₉' or -CH₂-C(O)OY₉', wherein Y₉' independently has the meaning of Y₉; and

R₃ is

- (i) a non-ionic substituent selected from the group consisting of
 - a) C₁-C₆-alkyl which is substituted by one or more same or different substituents selected from the group consisting of -OH, C₁-C₄-alkoxy and -NRR', wherein R and R' are each independently of another hydrogen or unsubstituted or hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl or phenyl;
 - b) phenyl which is substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or -NRR', wherein R and R' are as defined above;
 - c) a radical -COOY, wherein Y is C₁-C₂₄-alkyl, C₁-C₁₂₄-alkyl which is substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, -O-Si(CH₃)₂-NRR', a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₁₋₂₄-E, or a radical -NH-C(O)-O-G, wherein R and R' are as defined above, a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₄₋₂₄-E wherein E is hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl, or a radical -NH-C(O)-O-G, wherein -O-G is the radical of a saccharide with 1 to 8 sugar units or is a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₁₋₂₄-E, wherein E is as defined above, or Y is C₆-C₈-cycloalkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxy, or is unsubstituted or C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxy substituted phenyl or C₇-C₁₂-aralkyl;
 - d) -CONY₁Y₂, wherein Y₁ and Y₂ are each independently hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₁₂-alkyl, which is substituted by hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, a radical -CH(OR₁₈)₂, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₂-C₅-alkanoyl, or a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₁₋₂₄-E, wherein R₁₈ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₂-C₅-alkanoyl, or a radical -O-(CH₂CH₂O)₁₋₂₄-E wherein E is as defined above, or Y₁ and Y₂ together with the adjacent N-atom form a five- or six-membered

heterocyclic ring having no additional heteroatom or one additional oxygen or nitrogen atom; and

e) a radical -OY₃, wherein Y₃ is hydrogen, C₁-C₂₄-alkyl, acetyl, ~~or C₁-C₁₂-alkyl~~ which is substituted by -NRR'₁, or ~~is a radical -C(O)-C₁-C₂₄-alkyl, and~~ wherein R and R' are as defined above; or together are a five- to seven-membered heterocyclic radical having at least one N-atom and being bound in each case via said nitrogen atom; ~~or~~

(ii) an anionic substituent selected from the group consisting of

f) C₁-C₆-alkyl which is substituted by -SO₃H, -OSO₃H, -OPO₃H₂ and -COOH;

g) phenyl which is substituted by one or more same or different substituents selected from the group consisting of -SO₃H, -COOH, -OH and -CH₂-SO₃H;

h) -COOH;

i) a radical -COOY₄, wherein Y₄ is C₁-C₂₄-alkyl which is substituted by -COOH, -SO₃H, -OSO₃H, -OPO₃H₂, or ~~by a radical -NH-C(O)-O-G', wherein G' is the radical of an anionic carbohydrate;~~

j) a radical -CONY₅Y₆, wherein Y₅ is C₁-C₂₄-alkyl which is substituted by -COOH, -SO₃H, -OSO₃H, or -OPO₃H₂, wherein ~~and~~ Y₆ independently has the meaning of Y₅ or is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂-alkyl; ~~or and~~

k) -SO₃H; or a salt thereof; ~~or~~

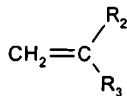
(iii) a cationic substituent selected from the group consisting of

l) C₁-C₁₂-alkyl which is substituted by a radical -NRR'R''An⁺, wherein R, R' and R'' are each independently of another hydrogen or unsubstituted or hydroxy-substituted C₁-C₆-alkyl or phenyl, and wherein An⁺ is an anion; ~~or and~~

m) a radical -C(O)OY₇, wherein Y₇ is C₁-C₂₄-alkyl which is substituted by -NRR'R''An⁺ and is further unsubstituted or substituted by hydroxy, wherein R, R', R'' and An⁺ are as defined above; or

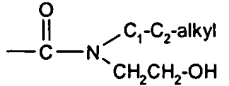
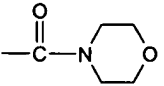

(iv) a zwitterionic substituent -R₁-Zw, wherein R₁ is a direct bond or a carbonyl, carbonate, amide, ester, dicarboanhydride, dicarboimide, urea or urethane group; and wherein Zw is an aliphatic moiety comprising one anionic and one cationic group each.

3. (previously presented) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic monomer according to step (a) is a radical of formula



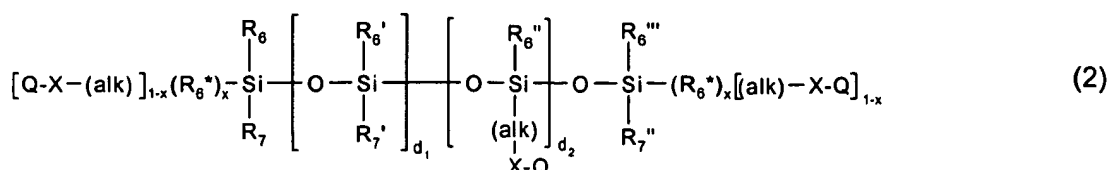
(1a)

wherein R₂ is hydrogen or methyl and R₃ is a non-ionic substituent selected from the group consisting of -COO-C₁-C₂-alkyl, -COO-(CH₂)₂₋₄-OH, -CONH₂, -CON(CH₃)₂, -CONH-(CH₂)₂-OH,

-CONH-(CH₂)₁₋₃-CH(OC₁-C₂-alkyl), ,  and .

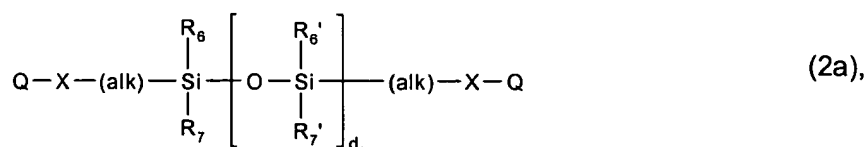
4. (canceled)

5. (original) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein the crosslinker according to step (a) is a polysiloxane of formula

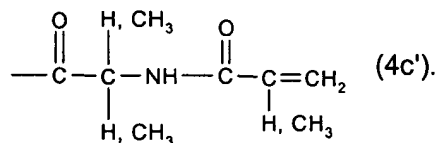
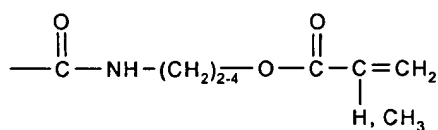
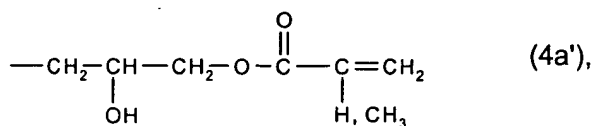
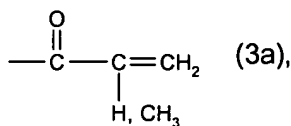


in which (alk) is alkylene having up to 20 carbon atoms which may be interrupted by -O-; X is -O- or -NR₈-, R₈ is hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl, Q is an organic radical comprising a crosslinkable or polymerizable group, 80-100% of the radicals R₆, R₆', R₆'', R₆''', R₆*, R₇, R₇' and R₇'', independently of one another, are C₁-C₈-alkyl and 0-20% of the radicals R₆, R₆', R₆'', R₆''', R₆*, R₇, R₇' and R₇'', independently of one another, are unsubstituted or C₁-C₄ alkyl- or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-substituted phenyl, fluoro(C₁-C₁₈-alkyl), cyano(C₁-C₁₂-alkyl), hydroxy-C₁-C₆-alkyl or amino-C₁-C₆-alkyl, x is the number 0 or 1, d₁ is an integer of from 5 to 700, d₂ is an integer from 0 to 8 if x is 0, and is 2 to 10 if x is 1, and the sum of (d₁+d₂) is from 5 to 700.

6. (original) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein the crosslinker according to step (a) is a polysiloxane of formula



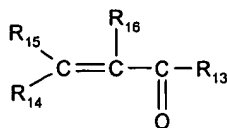
wherein R₆, R₆', R₇ and R₇' are each methyl, d₁ is an integer from 10 to 300, (alk) is linear or branched C₂-C₆ alkylene or a radical -(CH₂)₁₋₃-O-(CH₂)₁₋₃-, X is -O- or -NH- and Q is a radical of the formula



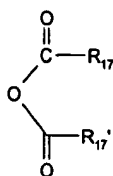
7. (original) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein the functional chain transfer agent used in step (a) is an organic primary thiol having a hydroxy, amino, N-C₁-C₆-alkylamino or carboxy group.

8. (original) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein prepolymer according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein, the components in step (a) are used in a molar ratio of from 0.5 to 5 equivalents chain transfer agent : 1 equivalent crosslinker : 5 to 60 equivalents hydrophilic monomer(s).

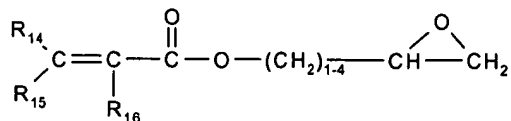
9. (original) A prepolymer according to claim 1, wherein the copolymer of step (a) is reacted in step (b) with a compound of formula



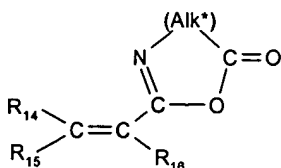
(9a),



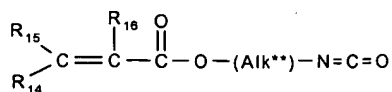
(9b),



(9c),



(9d) or



(9e),

wherein R_{13} is halogen, hydroxy, unsubstituted or hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy or phenoxy, R_{14} , and R_{15} are each independently of the other hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, phenyl, carboxy or halogen, R_{16} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or halogen, R_{17} and R_{17}' are each an ethylenically unsaturated radical having from 2 to 6 C-atoms, or R_{17} and R_{17}' together form a bivalent radical - $\text{C}(\text{R}_{14})=\text{C}(\text{R}_{16})$ - wherein R_{14} and R_{16} are as defined above, and (Alk^*) is C_1 - C_6 -alkylene, and (Alk^{**}) is C_2 - C_{12} -alkylene.

Claims 10 - 14 have been cancelled.